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into one organ, known as the column, was pointed out as the distinctive character of the orchid.

"Another interesting feature is the diversity of the lip-form. The lip is one of the petals. In some forms, such as *Odontoglossum*, it much resembles the other petals. In *Oncidium* it is markedly different in size and color; in *Cattleya* it becomes more modified by the inrolling of the base into a tube which surrounds the column; in *Dendrobium* a still greater modification occurs in the inrolling of the margins of the lip into a saccate organ; and in *Cypripedium* this tendency is greatly magnified, giving us the "slipper."

"The stem or leaves of orchids are frequently thickened, thus serving as storage organs for water. The water supply of many orchids, on account of their habitat on trees and rocks, is very uncertain, and those thickened leaves or stems carry the plants safely through periods of drought. When the thickened stems are short, and round or oval, they are known as pseudobulbs.

"Some orchids grow in the ground and are known as terrestrial. These are commonly found in temperate regions, where dangers from frost exist. The majority, however, are epiphytic, that is, they grow on trees, and are found in warm temperate and tropical regions. The number of species is between 6,000 and 7,000, of which about 150 are found in the United States. The two great centers of their occurrence are: in the New World, in northern South America, northward into Central America, and in the West Indies; in the Old World, in India and the Malay region. A series of slides was then exhibited illustrating some of the common wild and cultivated forms."

Meeting adjourned,

B. O. DODGE,

*Secretary.*

## FIELD MEETINGS

The following excursions are advertised by the field committee:

May 13.—Edenwald, N. Y. Meet at Terminus of 3rd Avenue Elevated R. R. at Botanical Garden, at 1 P. M. Fare 20 cents. Guide, DR. P. A. RYDBERG.

May 20.—Springfield, L. I. For Orchids. Meet at East 34th Street Ferry, New York side, 1 P. M. Guide, DR. E. B. SOUTHWICK.

May 27.—Summit, N. J. Lackawanna R. R. Meet at West 23rd Street Station, at 9 A. M. Guide, MR. SERENO STETSON.

June 3d.—To Staten Island, N. Y. Guide to determine Station. Fare 20 cents. Meet at Staten Island Ferry, N. Y. side, 9 A. M. Guide, MR. B. O. DODGE.

June 10th.—To Hollis, L. I. Meet at East 34th St. Ferry, N. Y. side, 9. A. M. For study of Fungi. Guide MR. F. J. SEAVER.

June 17-21. Slide Mountain, Ulster Co. This excursion may involve camping on the summit of the mountain for two nights. All those desiring to attend please communicate with the guide MR. NORMAN TAYLOR, Central Museum, Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, by May 30th in order that the necessary arrangements may be made.

The Field Committee.

E. B. SOUTHWICK,

*Chairman.*

## NEWS ITEMS

We learn from the *Tribune* (May 1) of the death of Dr. Pehr Olsson-Seffer in a train, wrecked and shot at by Mexican revolutionists. The week-end special train for Cuernavaca, seventy-five miles south of Mexico City, was stopped by the firing of a volley through it and its derailment. Dr. Olsson-Seffer, who was widely known for his work in tropical botany and agriculture, was born in Finland, went to Australia and subsequently to California where he became instructor in Stanford University. Latterly he made a tour of the tropical world to study the rubber industry, and was recently appointed to the chair of botany in the newly created Mexican University.

The following public lectures are advertised at the New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park. They are at 4 P. M. May 20. "The Reef-building and Land-forming Seaweeds," by Dr. Marshall A. Howe. May 27. "The Influence of Soil Acidity